

Regarding the National Association of Broadcasters' (NAB) petition (04-160) to stop XM's broadcasting of traffic and weather content to its subscribers: I would urge the FCC to reject the NAB's petition.

So much of what satellite radio represents is a way for listeners to reject the local broadcasters in their area for an alternative that they feel is better. I, as a satellite radio subscriber, have voted with my wallet and feel that XM will provide a better selection of music, talk radio that suits my political positions, as well as traffic and weather information that's always available when I need it.

The thought that local content is solely based on geographic location is becoming a fallacy. Anyone can find a niche that suits them in the breadth of content provided by satellite radio that covers many genres across music and political discussion including traffic and weather information. "Local" information isn't geographical, but now more of an ideological distinction.

I fail to see how providing 24/7 traffic and weather is any different from the Weather Channel on cable. They provide a general overview along with some specific information on a single geographical area. However, if there's going to be a severe weather event, there's no way I'm going to be sitting here with my eyes glued to the Weather Channel as opposed to a National Weather Service weather radio or my local television stations.

As far as providing traffic information, local broadcasters have simply lost out because they fail to provide the level of service that XM provides on their traffic and weather channels just as they have with failing to provide relevant musical content that suits my tastes.

I find it ironic that the NAB, who were the same group of people that supported and pushed for consolidation of radio stations across the country into a handful of media companies, are suddenly interested in making sure that local radio stations are free from national competition.

Force the NAB and its member stations to innovate or risk losing more of the American public to satellite radio. Don't let them prematurely cut down another source of content that's different from theirs, they're wrong in thinking that if satellite radio goes away, I'll be back to listening to terrestrial broadcasters. If the NAB wants to put XM or any other satellite radio company out of business, they will need to do it by working for my ears, not cutting down the competition through political means. The NAB is afraid of satellite radio and I believe they're looking for shelter in the FCC's arms.

Reject the NAB's petition.

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